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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Shortage of Plastic and Related Materials

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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- [REDACTED]
1. Hearsay and observation indicate that there are no domestically-produced plastic materials on the market in Poland. Products in the luxury goods field are of non-Polish origin. The few workshops in Warsaw where combs and buttons are being manufactured use foreign raw materials. Gallalite, plexiglass, and bakelite powder are in great demand. One kilogram of plexiglass costs 60 to 75 zloty.
 2. Celluloid products are very expensive. For example, a celluloid toy puppy of not too large size costs about 60 zloty and a child's rattle 20 zloty. Almost all toys are of wood, carelessly made, tastelessly designed, and expensive. In the MDD stores, some plastic products, such as ladies' handbags, can be seen.
 3. The following are critical plastic and related materials:
 - a) Fibreboard - in sheets, bars, and cylinders. This was formerly always imported; American fibreboard was in demand, Swedish second in popularity. At present these types sell for 60 zloty per kilogram on the black market. There are no factories producing fibreboard in Poland. Some from an unknown source can be found on the market, but it is generally of poor quality since it absorbs liquids readily and does not lend itself to lathe-working.
 - b) Bakelite - in plates, bars, cylinders and powder.
 - c) Galalit - in plates, bars, cylinders, and powder. The black market price is 300 zloty per kilogram.
 - d) Ebonite - in plates, bars, cylinders etc. At present ebonite is manufactured at Piastow. It is poor in quality, gray colored, lacking in lustre, and not sufficiently hard; it is also brittle and difficult to work with. There is a lack of good quality components for ebonite, sulphur among others. The black market price is 250 zloty per kilogram.

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- e) Preszpan - in sheets - priced at 45 zloty per kilogram.
- f) Tektura - technical and ordinary varieties are very scarce.
- g) Celluloid - the black market price is 150 zloty per kilogram.
- h) Felt - technical and for polishing. Black market prices are as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| White technical | 180-200 zloty per kilogram |
| White polishing | 350-400 zloty per kilogram |
| Gray technical | 120-150 zloty per kilogram |
| Gray polishing | 220-280 zloty per kilogram |
- i) Dermatoit.
- j) Mica. Both the clear and the clouded are scarce. The price is 600 zloty per kilogram.
- k) Others:
- Insulating tape
 - Lubricants for drive belts
 - Glass tubes for gauges, etc.
 - Emery-powder, cloth, and wheels
 - Graphite
 - Kalafonil (sic)
 - Talc (at present chalk is being used in the production of rubber articles.)
 - Minia (sic)
 - Szamot (sic)
 - Paraffin

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